--- 1/40th Pound - “Series of 1886” - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- *recess printed* in BLUE on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove - 21 x 28 mm. ---

--- scanned at 200% scale - inscribed [THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER] ---

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The **Budget of 1885** maintained the previous classifications but increased the excise duty to 5¢ per pound on *domestic leaf* tobacco - to 20¢ per pound on *bulk foreign leaf* tobacco - and to 35¢ per pound on *foreign leaf tobacco* in packages of less than 1/20th pound.

The catalogue lists **RC-98** as printed in 1888, and subsequent to **RC-89**. I feel that this is incorrect. They are inscribed **“THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER”** (which logically follows from the “Series of 1880” Type III strip, which was inscribed with “**NOT MORE THAN 1/20 lb**”). I think that **RC-98** is from 1886, and was recorded by John McKay under the **3rd BABN Contract** - see below:

John McKay records that 735,000 *recess printed* copies of “1-40 Blue, Square, Cigarettes” were ‘delivered’ under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). These were copies of **RC-98-100**.

He further reports that under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892) another 1,795,200 *recess printed* copies and 259,300 *lithographed* copies of “1-40 Blue, Square, Cigarettes” were ‘delivered’. These were **RC-89** and **RC-89(L)**.

★**RC-98** - 1/40th pound, blue, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove, perforated 12

★**RC-99** - 1/40th pound, blue, perforated 12 x *coarse roulette*, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove

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--- coarse roulette 5½ - scanned at 200% scale - inscribed [THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER] ---

★**RC-100** - 1/40th pound, blue, coarse roulette 5½, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove paper

★**RC-100** - 1/40th pound, blue, coarse roulette 5½, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove paper stamped **CUSTOMS / CIGARS / MONTREAL** in violet ink

★**RC-100** - 1/40th pound, blue, coarse roulette 5½?, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove, possibly a roughly separated imperforate

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Using magnification on some of the supposedly roulette copies I can find no trace of the horizontal slits, or of the separation bumps, which are characteristic of a true roulette. Are some taken from a horizontally imperforate sheet, and been roughly torn to separate?

--- *recess printed* BLUE plate proofs on light cardboard - 21 x 28 mm. ---

★ 1/40th pound, blue, an imperforate plate proof on light cardboard, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

★ 1/40th pound, blue, plate or die proofs on light cardboard, with a wide right and bottom margins

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1886\ 1-40th blue],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 8th 2013, JBH